



Aiming High, Achieving Together

Merton Infant School
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Dear Parents / Carers,

17th November 2021 – Governor Newsletter

It hardly seems like any time at all since we were welcoming the new starters to school in September and here we are already on the run up to Christmas!

I would like to extend a very warm welcome, on behalf of the Governors to all new children and their families not just in Year R but across the school. We hope you have settled in and are enjoying your time with us.

Governor Monitoring Day Wednesday 24th November

Every year the Governors spend time in school monitoring all aspects of school life. This is done in a number of ways such as; one off focused visits, attending training with school staff, attending pupil progress meetings and supporting the recruitment of new staff. Once per term we also have Governor Monitoring Days.

Please look out for us on the 24th of this month and come and say "Hello". We would love to chat to you and hear your feedback. We aim to spend time at the beginning and end of each Governor Monitoring day out on the playground and at entry/exit points to the school site. We will have another Monitoring Day on the 15th June 2022 and will remind you of this closer to the time.

New LLP

Hampshire County Council provides us with a Leading Learning Partner (LLP) who supports the school and provides an essential link between the school and the County Council. Our LLP has changed this year and we have Alister Moses joining us. He will visit us regularly throughout the year to assess our progress against our school improvement plan and to offer advice and support on further improvements.

Race for Life event and The Venetia Garden

As part of our Let's Explore week (see more below) we had a PE Day in which the pupils and staff completed the Race for Life. All pupils received a medal and we are amazed by the whopping total of £1348 raised. Well done to all who took part. The school ran in memory of our dear friend and colleague Vee Merritt, who we sadly lost earlier this year.

The official opening of our Well-being Venetia Garden has been delayed until the new year at the request of her husband. We will notify you when a new date has been set. The creation of our garden has been made possible by all your generous contributions and fundraising events over the last year, this we are sure the children and staff will enjoy using it.



Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



School Council

The school council has always been an important part of the school, allowing pupils to have a voice while helping children to develop into thoughtful, responsible citizens with key leadership skills. The school council consists of 6 Year 2 children who will meet regularly with Mrs James and the class teachers to discuss ideas and put together plans to improve the school. 18 children applied to be on the school council this year and they all took their turn to present their strengths and ideas to the year group. The children listened carefully and completed a voting slip to choose who they thought best represent their views, demonstrating our British Value of Democracy. The children voted in 6 great ambassadors for the school and we can't wait to work with them this year.

Breaking news – We have managed to secure a visit to the Houses of Parliament for our School Council in April 2022. This is an amazing opportunity for the children to see and experience first-hand the things they have learned in school.

Let's Explore Week

We ended the first half of the Autumn Term with a theme week. The children had an opportunity to explore Art, PE, History and Safeguarding in special focused days with a variety of different challenges and fun activities. It created a real buzz of excitement around the school and was a fantastic end to a busy term.

Governor Vacancies

We are still looking for new governors to join our [governing body](#). We would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining our small but effective team. Feel free to ask any member of the governing body for more information on what the role involves.

Who's who

							
Larissa James Headteacher	Emily Mean Chair of Governors	Louise Silverton Vice Chair of Governors	Lee-ann Dirienzo Co-opted Governor	Gary Pierce Parent Governor	Rachel Hill Staff Governor	Jan Beard Co-opted Governor	Zoe Wisken in attendance

Look out for us.....

We currently have some of our Remembrance Day art work on display in Tesco at Chineham Shopping Centre and look out for our Christmas window which will be coming to Tesco soon. We are hoping that our school choir will also be performing to entertain the Christmas shoppers in December - once a date has been arranged we will notify parents.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Mean
Chair of Governors